

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

EUR-25 AID-20 RSR-01 /148 W

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R 162010Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9210

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR OAS US BR

SUBJECT: OAS SPECIAL COMMITTEE--PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS

REF: STATE 154688

1. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, GOB INTERESTS WITH REGARD TO OAS HIGHLY CONVERGENT WITH THOSE OF US. THEY ALSO ANTICIPATE MODERATE REACTION DURING WASHINGTON PHASE. THEY ARE PREPARED TO COOPERATE WITH US TACTICALLY ON FUTURE PHASES OF COMMITTEE WORK. HOWEVER, THIS SHOULD BE HANDLED WITH DISCRETION SINCE FOREIGN MINISTRY IS SENSITIVE TO ALLEGATIONS THAT BRAZIL IS CAPTIVE OF US. ONE OFFICIAL POINTED OUT, ONLY HALF JOKINGLY, THAT FOREIGN MINISTER GIBSON BARBOZA WAS APPROACHED BY NEWSMEN DURING OAS GA WITH ASSERTION THAT FOREIGN MINISTER'S SPEECH WAS HIGHLY COINCIDENT WITH THAT OF SPEECH BY SECRETARY. GIBSON REMARKED THAT RECORD SHOULD NOTE THAT HE HAD GIVEN HIS SPEECH FIRST.

2. BRAZIL BELIEVES THAT LOCAL ATMOSPHERE IN LIMA WAS CRUCIAL IN SETTING TONE OF MEETING. THEY REFERRED TO "CONSTANT EJACULATION OF IDEAS" ON PART OF HIGHLY COMPETENT ALTHOUGH BIASED PERUVIAN DELEGATION DEALING FROM STRENGTH ON THEIR OWN HOME GROUNDS. THEY DO NOT EXPECT SUCH CON-

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DITIONS TO PREVAIL IN WASHINGTON WHERE PERUVIANS WILL

HAVE TO RELY ON THEIR PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE.

3. FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL POINTED OUT DIFFICULTIES FOREIGN DELEGATIONS FACED IN REFUTING HIGHLY PLAUSIBLE AND LOGICAL ARGUMENTS ADVANCED DURING COURSE OF LIMA MEETING WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY PROVED UNFOUNDED. AS AN EXAMPLE ONE OFFICIAL MENTIONED CORRIDOR TALK THAT AS A RESULT RUSSIAN WHEAT DEAL, IT WAS EXPECTED THAT LARGE NUMBERS OF SOVIET SHIPS LEAVING CUBA WITH EMPTY HOLDS BECAUSE OF SANCTIONS WOULD BE USED TO TRANSPORT WHEAT. THIS, COMBINED WITH IMPROVEMENT IN US RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION, WAS USED TO GOOD EFFECT BY PARTISANS OF LIFTING SANCTIONS.

4. BRAZILIANS ARE AGAINST ADVERSARY VIEW OF US-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS IN OAS CONTEXT. THEY ARE PARTICULARLY AGAINST ANY SUGGESTION THAT THE US SHOULD LEAVE THE ORGANIZATION. IN THIS SENSE THEY WILL ADMIT, IF PRESSED, THAT THEY ARE THINKING STRICTLY IN TERMS OF SELF-INTEREST SINCE THEY WOULD BE APPALLED AT THE PROSPECT OF BEING ALONE IN AN HISPANIC-DOMINATED ORGANIZATION, THUS REPLACING THE US AS A LIKELY TARGET.

5. AT THE PRESENT TIME BRAZILIANS ARE INCLINED TO ALLOW PERMANENT DELEGATION TO CARRY BRUNT OF WORK IN WASHINGTON PHASE ALTHOUGH THEY ARE NOT EXCLUDING POSSIBILITY THAT MINISTER PADILHA VIDAL, CHIEF OF THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DEPARTMENT OF REGIONAL AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS, WILL ATTEND. CRIMMINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973BRASIL05284
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BRASILIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730835/aaaaazhj.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 154688
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Jan-2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <05-Feb-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OAS SPECIAL COMMITTEE--PRELIMINARY OBSERVATIONS
TAGS: PFOR, US, BR, OAS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005